

FRIENDS OF HULLETT

MINUTES FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

July 28, 2026 @ 7:30PM – West Perth Municipal Office, Mitchell

Present: Mat Shetler, Ryan Bayne, Mark Penhale, Duane Inkpen (remote, Chair), Steve Dalrymple, Donna Taylor, Mario Coniglio

Guests: Justin Johnson, Ben Elliot, Emily Dearing, Ally Gibson

Regrets: Craig McDonald, Doug Gordon

Meeting was called to order at 7:28PM.

- Mat chaired the meeting.

1. Review minutes from previous meeting, June 30, 2026

Correction: Vote count on the following motion, to “Use funds from Auburn to purchase plastic trail markers (estimated \$1400). Moved – Mark, Seconded – Steve. Carried (unanimous)” should have read “passed, with two dissenting votes, no abstentions”.

- Minutes of the June 30, 2026 meeting were approved with the noted correction (unanimous)

There were no new actions from the June 30, 2026 meeting

Actions carried from the May 24, 2026 meeting for reporting at this meeting:

- **ACTION:** Justin to look into thinning out pine and firs in the identified plantations – STILL IN PROGRESS, ONGOING DISCUSSION – Justin will follow-up with David in planned operations meeting on April 23, 2026.

This action is reported on in the Marsh report, item #17. Justin will report further progress at the August board meeting.

For October meeting

- **ACTION 4:** Membership sub-committee has talked to Scott and will finalize the proposal prior to Jan.

ONGOING: Sub-committee will develop an implementation plan for this Fall.

2. Treasurer’s report – Ryan Bayne.

Prior to the meeting, Ryan emailed an Income and Expense report with the 2026 budget lined up for comparison. He reported that our income is on pace and our expenses are behind, but this is expected at this time of year.

Other notes on the budget report:

- Fund-raising is ahead of projection
- Overall Ag contract income is approximately where we would expect to see it at this time of year
- A couple of expenses exceeded expectations (vehicles, membership fees)
- Grader was bought – this purchase was not planned. This new equipment falls under capital.
- Leased equipment falls under capital expenditures – Ryan will confirm with Scott and Janis so it is allocated properly
- We are renting equipment for brush clearing but it is recorded as a capital expense
- Dredge work will be applied to capital expenses

Ryan asked if Board wanted an update to the 2026 budget. After minor discussion, it was agreed instead that we manage the budget as we proceed.

3. Report from the Marsh – Justin Johnson **July 23, 2026 – July Marsh Report**

➔ **Designates points of clarification/amplification related to submitted Marsh Report**

Stewardship

1. Grassland Conversion

- Justin has been working closely with Flynn to prepare identified fields for restoration.
- Justin spoke with a chemical consultant; given Flynn's previous failure, timing of herbicide application is likely to blame; should be completed in August following a mow.
- Flynn to mow the fields and take the grass as Hay to offset costs, will spray two weeks later.
- FoH to mow other identified fields; spray and rip after mowing complete.
- Justin asked Flynn about spaces FoH could clear out for him. Flynn said we are "doing a great job improving accesses" and "nothing really comes to mind as issues with ag field edges".

2. ISAF (Invasive Species Action Fund) Grant

- Staff have purchased materials for test kiln - completed build today; see image below



- With granted funds, we would be able to build up to **4 more kilns** for use across the Marsh.
- Signage and workshop are in development; aiming for September offering.
- ISAF is sending materials to help promote the project; will be distributed at workshop.

➔ Justin was able to get kiln built for less than \$200
Ally working on signage, grant will be closed out in the fall

3. *Phragmites Control*

- Application under review with Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks (MECP).
- MNR still working on Phragmites Environmental Assessment
 - MNR has asked a few questions, and hope to be through the process soon.
- Drone application of Habitat Aqua at Hullett is still planned for **August 4th, 2026**.

4. *1-20 Parking Lot Meadow Management*

- Nick has prepared a burn break plan for review by Burn Bosses (see attached).
 - Expecting some delays given fire professionals have other issues at hand currently.
- **Nick's work has been immensely helpful in informing the design of the space.**
 - Radek, a Burn Boss from Alderville First Nation has provided comments on our plan.
 - Ben and Justin to discuss next steps in design with Nick in the next week or so.
- Everett Smith has some contacts in the Central Huron Fire Department that may be interested in knowing our plans for burning
 - A volunteer member of the department, Everett doesn't see an issue in conducting burns at Hullett re:local by-law etc..
 - He will be providing us with Fire Department contact information.

5. *Forestry Mulching*

- Ultimate Land Clearing was selected as the provider of the mulching equipment.
 - ~\$6300 deposit approved by BoD has been paid.
- Justin is organizing the temporary addition of equipment to commercial insurance policy.
 - Insurance company has agreed to add the machine on. Still uncertain about costs.
- Ben and Justin have a plan for managing high priority sites/delivering on planned projects.
 - Open to suggestions, there will be no shortage of work for us to take on.

➔ Duane asked if there is a safety plan in place – whether we will notify users that work is going on (e.g., with signage, isolating areas being worked. Justin responded that there will be pertinent information on the FoH website.

Hunt Management

6. *Youth Waterfowl Clinic*

- So far 7 spots are reserved for this year's Clinic.

➔ Five people have signed up at this time

- Still need to purchase some equipment for attendees; to be paid for out of Lotto account.
- Dean Waite is on board to present; Cole Bedlington has agreed to bring a retriever.
 - Dean has sold a lot of his gear and would need to find some to borrow to showcase at the Clinic.

➔ Gear could include field and water decoys, layout blinds, etc.

7. *Hullett Trappers*

- All trappers have signed/intend to sign their agreements to renew for 2026/27.
- Meeting (July 13th) was a success, and identified a few areas for improvement:
 - Signage - we discussed placing notice about traps at six major access points.
 - Signs (3 each) were distributed to trappers to place as they see fit.
 - Everett reported some tampering of his sets along the Whistler Channel.

- Will work with him to deploy cameras and identify those responsible.

Fundraising/Development

8. Ontario Wildlife Foundation Grant

- Partially successful, received \$1000 (requested \$2000) to purchase 4 Songmeter Micro 2's
- These Autonomous Recording Units (ARU's) will help us measure the impact of mulching work on target bird species (American Woodcock, Ruffed Grouse, Common Nighthawk).
- ARU's to be purchased when funds arrive, will be deployed next spring /summer.

➔ Announcement email was sent on July 16 and cheque has already been received.

Financials

9. Current Financial Summary

General Donations to Date - \$3,546.20

Membership Donations to Date - \$6,078.93

Donations to Pheasant Release Program to Date - \$65

Hat and FOH Merchandise Sales to Date - \$74.30

Pheasant Challenge Ticket Sales: \$1,646.88 (167 tickets; 13.9% sold)

Maintenance

10. Butterball Dredge

- VanDriel's to begin mulching on August 1st; begin to clear the way for subsequent dredging.

➔ Timing is uncertain – could be up to two weeks of mulching

11. Duck Baiting Platforms

- Ben spoke with Scott Dale this week; both agreed that stable boardwalks/platforms are best for deployment of the baiting stations.
- Scott Dale to coordinate placement of sonotubes with VanDriel's while they are on site.
- Ben and Justin to meet with Scott Dale and Derrick VanDriel next week to discuss options.

➔ Derrick will donate steel I-beams, and will bring excavating and welding equipment. Estimated \$5k cost. Work in North area will follow, but how this will be done remains unclear. We want to see what happens with the South baiting station to inform how we proceed with the North area.

MOTION: approve up to \$12,000 for construction of a boardwalk and platform in the South baiting area. Ryan moved, Donna seconded. Motion carried (unanimous)

12. General Maintenance

- All trails and dykes have been mown.
- Ben has mowed the plantations, working to spray and grade parking lots.
- Emily and Caelen have been busy painting gates and weed whacking signs.

Outreach/Communications

13. Hullett User Guide (HUG)

- Ally has been working on a revitalized and modernized version of the Hullett User Guide.
- Draft distributed to BoD for final review; deadline for edits is **August 4th**.
- Will go to print first week of August, will have updated HUG out before September.

14. 2027 Hullett Photo Contest

- Doug and Staff have been working on revitalizing the Photo Contest
 - 2027 to bring bigger prizes, generate more interest in the contest.
 - 5 submissions are available to non-members; members receive unlimited submissions.
 - 5 categories for judging: Wildlife, Plants, Landscape, Recreation, and Smartphone.
 - Top submissions selected anonymously by judges; winners voted by membership.
 - Looking for sponsorship with Henry's Camera; request led by Doug.
 - Full rules to be available on the website once finalized.

➔ Justin will talk to Doug about a "world cup"-type bracket-type process to narrow down finalists

Miscellaneous

15. Summerhill Privy Door

- Justin has located the supplier, getting a quote on a replacement for the door.

➔ Justin received a quote for \$1219.

MOTION: approve expenditure of \$1219 to fix door for privy. to put towards construction of a boardwalk and platform in the South baiting area. Donna moved, Mark seconded. Motion carried (unanimous)

ACTION: Justin to look into getting bollards installed near privy.

16. DUC Updates

- Ducks will not host their own table at this year's International Plowing Match.
- Nick Krete expects some reps from Alabama Department of Natural Resources to stop by Hullett on November 10th – more information to follow as the date approaches.
- DUC is still working on sourcing locks, they haven't shown up at Andrew's place yet.

17. MNR Updates

- MNR is working internally on the process for forestry approvals; David Denyes to follow up with more information when it becomes available.
- Review of requested signage is still underway; no updates on when review will be complete.

18. First Aid Training

- Emily, Ally, and Caelen all successfully completed their First Aid Training!

4. Reports from the OMNRF/Ducks Unlimited

- Nothing new to report

5. Website, Newsletter & User Guide

- -Comments re: website? Nothing new to report
- -Newsletter timing? Nothing new to report
- -HUG drafts and timing? Nothing new to report

-Early prep for waterfowl? Are we doing a draw? Any changes should be communicated in Newsletter

- Board discussed this – no changes are being planned as they relate to the duck draw.

7. Pheasant Challenge, Youth Waterfowl Clinic

- Nothing new to report

8. New Business

Mat:

- Mat led discussion on gift certificates for former Board members Chris and Barb

ACTION: Justin or Ben will get \$200 gift certificates from appropriate retailers.

- Mat led discussion concerning using the inflation rate to fine tune asset plan. Could use CPI. The Board agreed on bumping up the annual rate to 3% to predict future costs.
- There were no other Business Arising issues.

9. In camera if needed

- There was no in camera meeting

Meeting adjourned at 8:37PM

Next meeting is on August 25, 2026. 1